

REMARKS

Claims 1-15 are currently pending (claims 9-13 are withdrawn). On page 2 of the Office Action, claims 1 and 5 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,752,935 (Beck).

Beck is directed to an electrode structure in a gas laser. According to Beck, the electrodes are wound approximately in a cylindrical helical line to form at least one double helix. The inside diameters of the helical electrodes are parallel to each other. Four helical electrodes are preferably provided, one double helix serving as the main electrodes and the other double helix serving for preionization. The helical main electrodes preferably are formed as tubes and are connected to a cooling medium circuit.

According to the construction of the present invention, one scanning electrode of a pair of sustain electrodes and an address electrode selectively perform discharging. As a result, selective discharging can be performed at a low voltage.

In contrast to the present invention, Beck does not disclose a structure wherein a plurality of pairs of electrodes and an address electrode are formed on the external surface of a tubular body, and a structure wherein an address electrode is formed within a recess portion.

In Beck, although an electrode is formed within a recess portion, the electrode is not an address electrode. Further, the construction of Beck does not perform *stable* discharging.

Therefore, independent claim 1 is patentable over the reference for at least the reason presented above. As dependent claims 2-8 depend from independent claim 1, the dependent claims are patentable over Beck for at least the reasons presented for independent claim 1.

There being no further outstanding objections or rejections, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. An early action to that effect is courteously solicited.

Finally, if there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to these matters.

Serial No. 10/786,056

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

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